

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 AF-08 ARA-06 EUR-12 NEA-10 AID-05

CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06

TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01

OMB-01 L-03 H-02 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-04 CEA-01 PA-01

PRS-01 /131 W

----- 038286

R 090306Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4507

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 5163

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, MY

SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: GOM VIEWS ON NASC ECONOMIC DECLARATION

AND ECONOMIC ACTION PROGRAM

REF: KUALA LUMPUR 5026

1. WE DISCUSSED ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF NASC WITH PRIMARY INDUSTRIES' UNDERSECRETARY INDER SINGH KHOSA WHO REPRESENTED MALAYSIA IN NASC ECONOMIC COMMITTEE. INDER SINGH KHOSA NOTED THAT GREATER RECOGNITION GIVEN TO ECONOMIC MATTERS IN NASC AS REFLECTED IN CREATION OF ECONOMIC COMMITTEE AND MENTION OF ECONOMIC MATTERS BY SEVERAL HEADS OF GOVERNMENT IN PLENARY. INDER SINGH KHOSA SAID THAT SOCIALIST COUNTRIES SOUGHT GREATER POLITICAL COLORATION IN ECONOMIC COMMITTEE, SPECIFICALLY MENTIONING THAT EGYPT PROPOSED LANGUAGE TO EFFECT THAT NIEO RESULTED FROM OCTOBER 1973 WAR. HE ALSO EXPRESSED VIEW THAT ECONOMIC CONCERNS WERE COMMON PROBLEMS AND THEREFORE MORE EASILY RECONCILED THAN POLITICAL MATTERS.

2. RE ECONOMIC DECLARATION AND ACTION PROGRAM FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION, INDER SINGH KHOSA SAID THESE CONTAINED NOTHING DETRIMENTAL TO MALAYSIAN ECONOMIC INTERESTS AND, IN FACT, GOM VERY PLEASED THAT ACTION PROGRAM COVERED ITEMS OF IMPORTANCE TO GOM, PARTICULARLY SECTION I.A. ON RAW MATERIALS WHICH FULLY SUPPORTS
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GOM POSITION. OTHER ACTION PROGRAM ITEMS, NOTABLY TRADE AND

MONETARY AND FINANCIAL COOPERATION, HANDLED SATISFACTORILY,
BUT ARE OF LESSER INTEREST TO GOM THAN COMMODITIES.

3. INDER SINGH KHOSA SAID THAT MALAYSIA HAD PROPOSED RESOLUTION
GIVING FULL SUPPORT TO UNCTAD EFFORTS ON COMMODITIES AND HAD
OPPOSED EXTREME LANGUAGE IN CUBAN RESOLUTION ON MULTI-NATIONAL
CORPORATIONS SINCE THIS INCONSISTENT WITH GOM POLICY WHICH
WELCOMES FOREIGN INVESTMENT.

4. COMMENT: INDER SINGH KHOSA'S FAVORABLE VIEW OF ECONOMIC
DECLARATION AND ACTION PROGRAM CONFIRMED BY MFA UNDERSECRETARY
ISMAIL BIN BUDIN. SEEMS CLEAR, THEREFORE, THAT COMMODITIES
ISSUE, WHICH IS ECONOMIC ISSUE OF MAJOR IMPORTANCE TO MALAYSIA,
AND OTHER ECONOMIC ITEMS OF LESSER INTEREST, WERE HANDLED BY
NASC IN SATISFACTORY MANNER FROM POINT OF VIEW OF MALAYSIAN
ECONOMIC OBJECTIVES.
UNDERHILL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONAL OPINION, NONALIGNED NATIONS, ECONOMIC PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: SmithRJ
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976KUALA05163
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: DG ALTERED
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760340-0799
From: KUALA LUMPUR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760978/aaaacowz.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 KUALA LUMPUR 5026
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: SmithRJ
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 JUN 2004 by buchant0>; APPROVED <24 SEP 2004 by SmithRJ>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MILTILATERAL AFFAIRS: GOM VIEWS ON NASC ECONOMIC DECLARATION AND ECONOMIC ACTION PROGRAM
TAGS: EGEN, MY, (KHOSA, INDER SINGH)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006